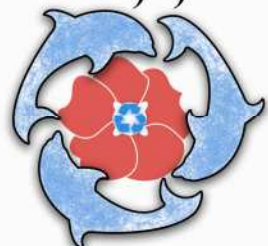


Dedicated to promoting recycling, reducing litter and visual pollution and keeping Santa Barbara looking good.

Public Works Department • P.O. Box 1990 • Santa Barbara, CA • 93102-1990 • (805) 897-2526

looking good



santa barbara

UPCOMING CLEAN-UPS

JUNE 30, 2007

MEET AT FRANKLIN SCHOOL

JULY 14, 2007

LOCATION—TBA

JULY 28, 2007

LOCATION—TBA

Please call Lorraine at 897-2526 for more information or to schedule a clean-up for your group

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP & TREE PLANTING

On April 21st, approximately one hundred volunteers, including residents, high school students and families from Marymount School gathered to celebrate Earth Day in a special and long lasting way through an LGSB community Clean-Up day.

Nothing could stop the Earth Day clean-up from being a success, not even the rain which cleared-up and made room for a bright sunny day to work. Helping hands geared up with gloves, brooms and trash bags, while others grabbed graffiti removal supplies and hit the streets of Santa Barbara's Westside to erase any traces of litterbugs and taggers. Families from Marymount worked alongside Parks staff to learn how to properly plant trees, an activity that fit in with the weekend theme of Earth Day.

A total of twenty-five trees were planted as

part of a Tree Diversity Project. The Tree Diversity Project is a collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department and the SB Botanic Garden to recapture and enhance the diversity of tree species that make up Santa Barbara's urban forest. Trees were planted on the 1600 and 1700 blocks of Robbins Street and 2000 block of Chino Street. Many neighbors came out to meet and join volunteers once they saw all the activity.

The tree planting project was such a fun experience that it inspired the Marymount group to do a dance around one sapling (pictured).

These community clean-ups are hard work, but are always truly rewarding for those that participate. If you are part of a group or a resident that would like to plan a clean-up in your neighborhood, call LGSB at 897-2526 to get more information.



KEEPING EVENTS CLEAN & GREEN

Santa Barbara is a town with a special event season that lasts virtually all year round. Along with the fun and festivities of events like the Summer Solstice and Fiesta parades, come litter and waste issues that must be planned for months in advance.

Litter at an event can easily be generated. Imagine thousands of people having lunch as they watch a



Solstice Parade 2007

parade go by on State Street. Not only trash, such as sandwich wrappers and napkins, need to be disposed of, but hundreds of soda cans and water bottles that can easily be recycled. In keeping with the City's goal of increasing recycling efforts and keeping Santa Barbara clean and beautiful, Litter-Free Event Requirements were created. The requirements make it mandatory for event organizers to provide extra trash and recycling

boxes (in addition to the permanent containers), to meet the needs of the crowds the event generates. The event boxes are to be placed side-by-side, so that event-goers are reminded that they can recycle waste before throwing it all into the trash can.

When you are at an event this Summer, remember to do your part—Clean up and recycle your trash. The City and event organizers have worked together to make it easy for you.

Taking it a step further, the City of Santa Barbara has created a Zero-Waste Events Program to reduce its environmental impact.

Approximately two years ago, in an effort to address the problem of methane generation from the Tajiguas Landfill, the City Office Recycling Group (CORG) established the program, which significantly decreases waste by composting food scraps and using



Event Recycling Boxes

biodegradable dinnerware that can also be composted.

At City sponsored events everything, including plates, cups, tableware, and foodscraps

(leftovers) goes into a yellow composting container. All recyclables, such as soda cans and water bottles (which are also being decreased by using pitchers of water or ice tea) continue to go into a blue recycling container. There are no trash cans at Zero Waste Events! The foodscraps are hauled to a certified compost facility to become soil amendment on local agricultural land. To date the City has provided these services to over 4,000 participants.



Attendees learn about Zero Waste Events



Eric Lohela explains how the program works

PAPER VS. PLASTIC BAGS — THE NON-DEBATE

Paper or plastic? This used to be the question you heard at groceries stores all the time. Today, they don't even ask and automatically give you a plastic bag. In fact, they give you about six or seven of them if you are doing your weekly grocery shopping. You do still have the option to ask for paper, but which is the better choice, paper or plastic? As you may have read over and over, the answer is neither. There are hundreds of websites devoted to arguing for one or the other, but the simple answer is that a reusable bag is the best choice.

Both paper and plastic bags have a significant impact on the environment, as they consume large amounts of energy and natural resources to produce and the majority of them end up in landfills. In California alone, 600 plastic bags are thrown away per minute and each one of those bags can take at least 1000 years to decompose.

A brief review of the facts about plastic and paper bags, make it quite clear that reusable bags are the best choice overall. Reusable bags are cheap and often times free (companies often give them away as promotional items). They are durable and even



very fashionable (see the new Trader Joes bag sold for only \$2). Some companies, like ChicoBag, have also made it very convenient to remember and to carry a reusable bag by adding a key chain hook and a small pocket that the whole bag folds into. Other companies like Trader Joes enter you in a raffle for free groceries every time you bring a reusable bag.

Making the change over to reusable bags is just a matter of retraining yourself. Keep a set of bags in your car and a compact bag in your purse or on your key ring for those small purchases. Learn to be quick and give the bagger your reusable bags before they start packing them into plastic bags. If you didn't bring enough reusable bags, tell them to leave the big items loose (even if they look at you funny). Remember, sometimes you don't even need a bag, not even a reusable one, for items such as one pack of gum or a greeting card that stores will automatically bag!



Reusable bag from
Trader Joes



Easy to carry
ChicoBag

Some Facts About Paper and Plastic

- ◆ Plastic bags are petroleum based and millions of barrels of oil are used annually to produce plastic bags for the U.S. alone
- ◆ It can take plastic bags at least 1000 years to decompose in nature
- ◆ Plastic bags break down into tiny particles that enter our food chain when ingested by animals and marine life
- ◆ Paper bags come from trees—and lots of them
- ◆ Paper bags are very resource intensive to manufacture and create air and water pollutants
- ◆ Plastic bags are common sources of litter in streets and waterways
- ◆ Although paper bags are recyclable, it takes a great amount of energy to recycle them